



**United States Department of Justice
United States Attorney's Office
District of Minnesota**

**B. Todd Jones,
United States Attorney**

**Jeanne F. Cooney
Director of Community Relations
(612) 664-5611
email: jeanne.cooney@usdoj.gov**

News Release

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Robbinsdale man pleads guilty to bank fraud, identity theft

A 32-year-old Robbinsdale man pled guilty today in federal court to stealing the personal identification information of nearly 100 victims and using that information to obtain money and other items. Appearing before United States District Court Judge David S. Doty in Minneapolis, Jason Alan Tauer pled guilty to two counts of bank fraud, one count of access device fraud, and three counts of aggravated identity theft. Tauer was indicted on November 3, 2009.

In his plea agreement, Tauer admitted stealing the files of 93 people who had made mortgage applications to Ameriquest Mortgage. Tauer worked there as a mortgage assistant from March 15 through April 29, 2005. Tauer also admitted obtaining personal identification and financial information from stolen mail and items he took from gym lockers. Tauer utilized all of this stolen information to create fraudulent identification documents and checks, which, in turn, he used to obtain cash, services, and other valuables.

For example, Tauer took one victim's identification to obtain a credit card through U.S. Bank. With that card, he then obtained a total of \$30,529.63 in cash from ATMs throughout Minnesota. Those disbursements were charged to the victim.

Law enforcement executed a search warrant at Tauer's residence on December 4, 2007, and recovered the 93 files stolen from Ameriquest Mortgage as well as stolen mail and other financial information belonging to 208 individuals.

For his crimes, Tauer faces a potential maximum penalty of 30 years in prison for each bank fraud count, 10 years for the access device fraud count and a mandatory minimum penalty of two years on each aggravated identity theft count. Judge Doty will determine his sentence at a future date. This case is the result of an investigation by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, the Robbinsdale Police Department and the Centennial Lakes Police Department.